ANIMALS IN THE QURAN

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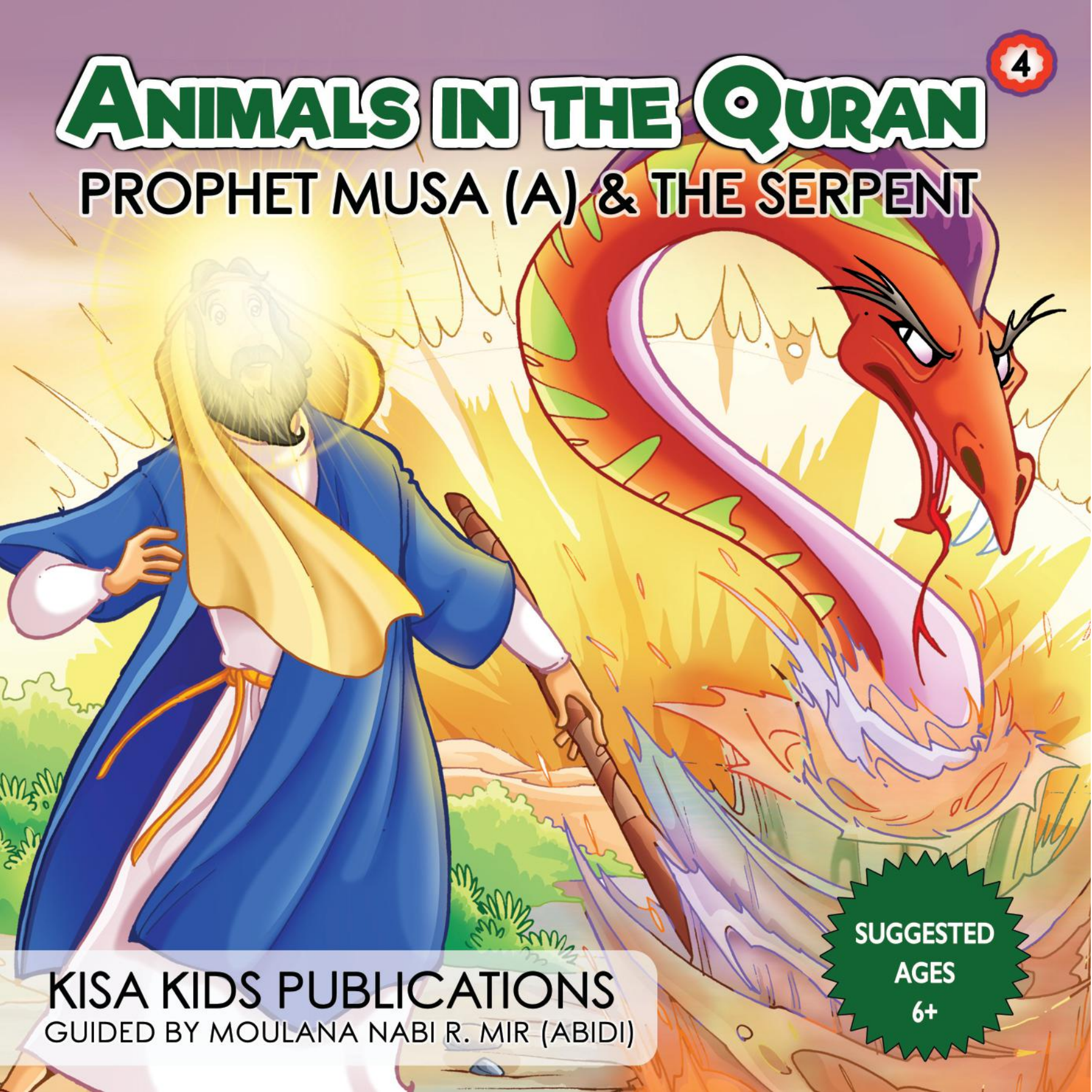
PROPHET MUSA (A) & THE SERPENT



SUGGESTED AGES 6+

KISA KIDS PUBLICATIONS
GUIDED BY MOULANA NABI R. MIR (ABIDI)

Disclaimer: Religious texts have ***not*** been translated verbatim so as to meet the developmental and comprehension needs of children.

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to the beloved Imām of our time (ʿaj). May Allah (swt) hasten his reappearance and help us to become his true companions.

Original Author

Brother Alāʾ Jaʿfarī

Acknowledgements

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ): On the Day of Resurrection, the ink of the scholars will be weighed up against the blood of the martyrs, and the ink of the scholars will be heavier than the blood of the martyrs.

Nahj al-Faṣāḥah, Saying #3222.

True reward lies with Allah, but we would like to sincerely thank the efforts of Shaykh Salim Yusufali, Sisters Sabika Mithani, Liliana Villalvazo, Sarah Ali, Amna Hussain, Zainab Mithani, Zahra Sabur, Sajeda Merchant, Fathema Abidi, Fatemeh Eslami, Kisae Nazar, Abeda Khimji, Zehra Abbas, Zainab Hussain, and Fatima Hussain. We would especially like to thank Nainawa Publications for their artwork and contributions
May Allah bless them in this world and the next.

Marḥūmīn Dedication

Please recite a Sūrah al-Fātiḥah for the marḥūmīn of the Talebi family

Preface

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ): Nurture and raise your children in the best way. Raise them with the love of the Prophets and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa).

Literature is an influential form of media that often shapes the thoughts and views of an entire generation. Therefore, in order to establish an Islamic foundation for the future generations, there is a dire need for compelling Islamic literature. Over the past several years, this need has become increasingly prevalent throughout Islamic centers and schools everywhere. Due to the growing dissonance between parents, children, society, and the teachings of Islam and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa), this need has become even more pressing. Al-Kisa Foundation, along with its subsidiary, Kisa Kids Publications, was conceived in an effort to help bridge this gap with the guidance of ʿulamāʾ and the help of educators. We would like to make this a communal effort and platform. Therefore, we sincerely welcome constructive feedback and help in any capacity.

The goal of *Animals in the Quran* is to strengthen children's understanding of how Allah is All-Powerful and All-Wise, thus strengthening their tawakkul and reliance. We hope that you and your children enjoy these books and use them as a means to achieve this goal, inshāʾAllāh.

We pray to Allah to give us the strength and tawfīq to perform our duties and responsibilities.

With Duʾās,
Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

About the Board ʿĀlim

Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi) is a scholar, an educator, a father, and an enthusiast for creating educational infrastructure and Islamic resources for the benefit of the global community. Always wanting to think outside the box by supporting the creation of innovative materials to engage young readers to pick up Islamic books, interact with Qurʾānic games, learn from the Steps to Perfection Curriculum and begin their life long journey of holistic education.

Being a dedicated student and graduate of Darse Khārij from Ḥawzah, Moulana Abidi knows the value of Islamic education. Also, growing up in India while now residing in the United States, he has had the honor to meet with various communities and community leaders, and values the importance of collaboration and working together to optimize potentials and to create open source platforms so information and resources are available and accessible to all.

* * *

You, dear reader, are now part of the Al-Kisa family. Share the word, and join the mission.

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ANIMALS IN THE QURAN

PROPHET MUSA (A) & THE SERPENT

AL-KISA FOUNDATION
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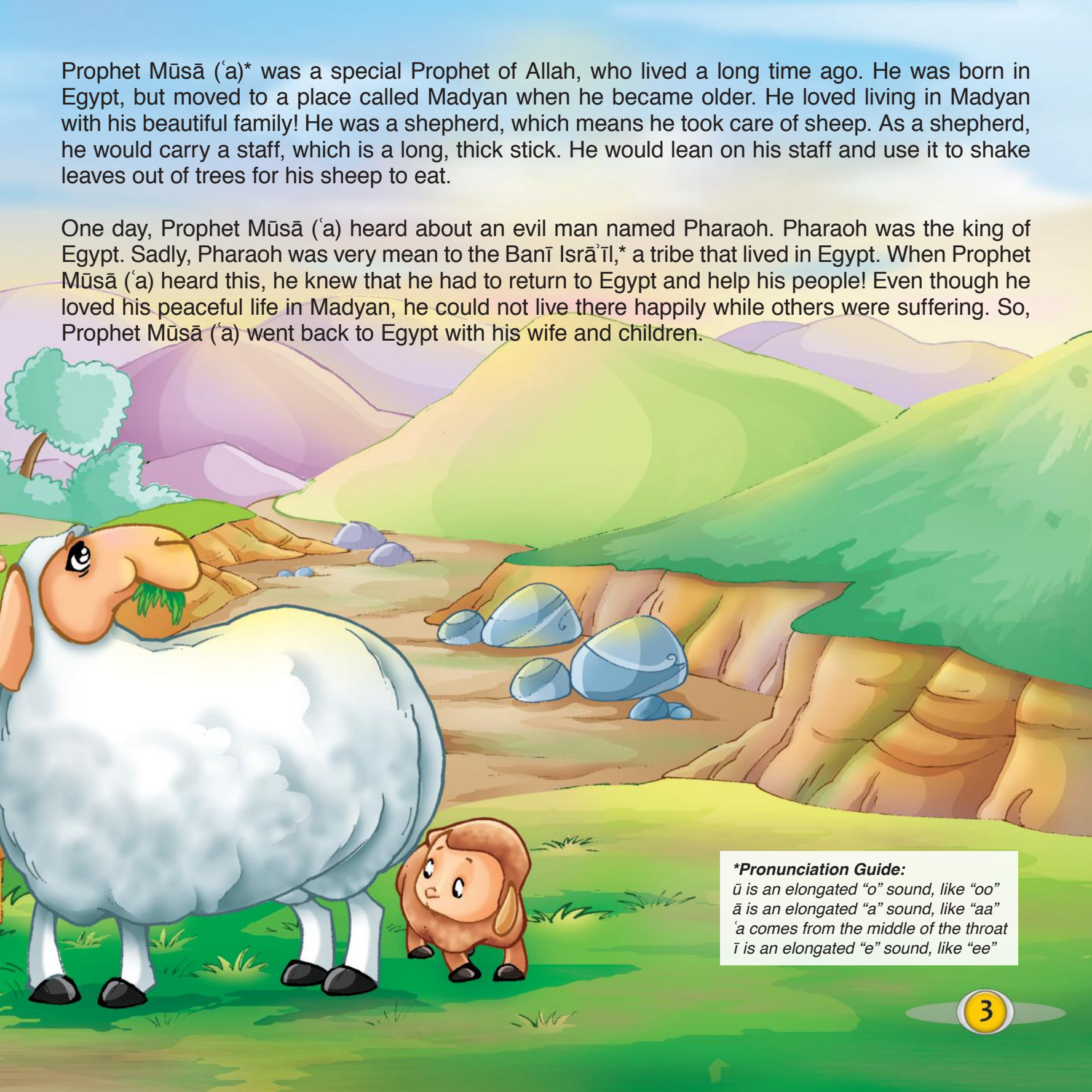
Prophet Mūsā (ʿa)* was a special Prophet of Allah, who lived a long time ago. He was born in Egypt, but moved to a place called Madyan when he became older. He loved living in Madyan with his beautiful family! He was a shepherd, which means he took care of sheep. As a shepherd, he would carry a staff, which is a long, thick stick. He would lean on his staff and use it to shake leaves out of trees for his sheep to eat.

One day, Prophet Mūsā (ʿa) heard about an evil man named Pharaoh. Pharaoh was the king of Egypt. Sadly, Pharaoh was very mean to the Banī Isrāʾīl,* a tribe that lived in Egypt. When Prophet Mūsā (ʿa) heard this, he knew that he had to return to Egypt and help his people! Even though he loved his peaceful life in Madyan, he could not live there happily while others were suffering. So, Prophet Mūsā (ʿa) went back to Egypt with his wife and children.



Pronunciation Guide:
ū is an elongated "o" sound, like "oo"
ā is an elongated "a" sound, like "aa"
ʿa comes from the middle of the throat
ī is an elongated "e" sound, like "ee"

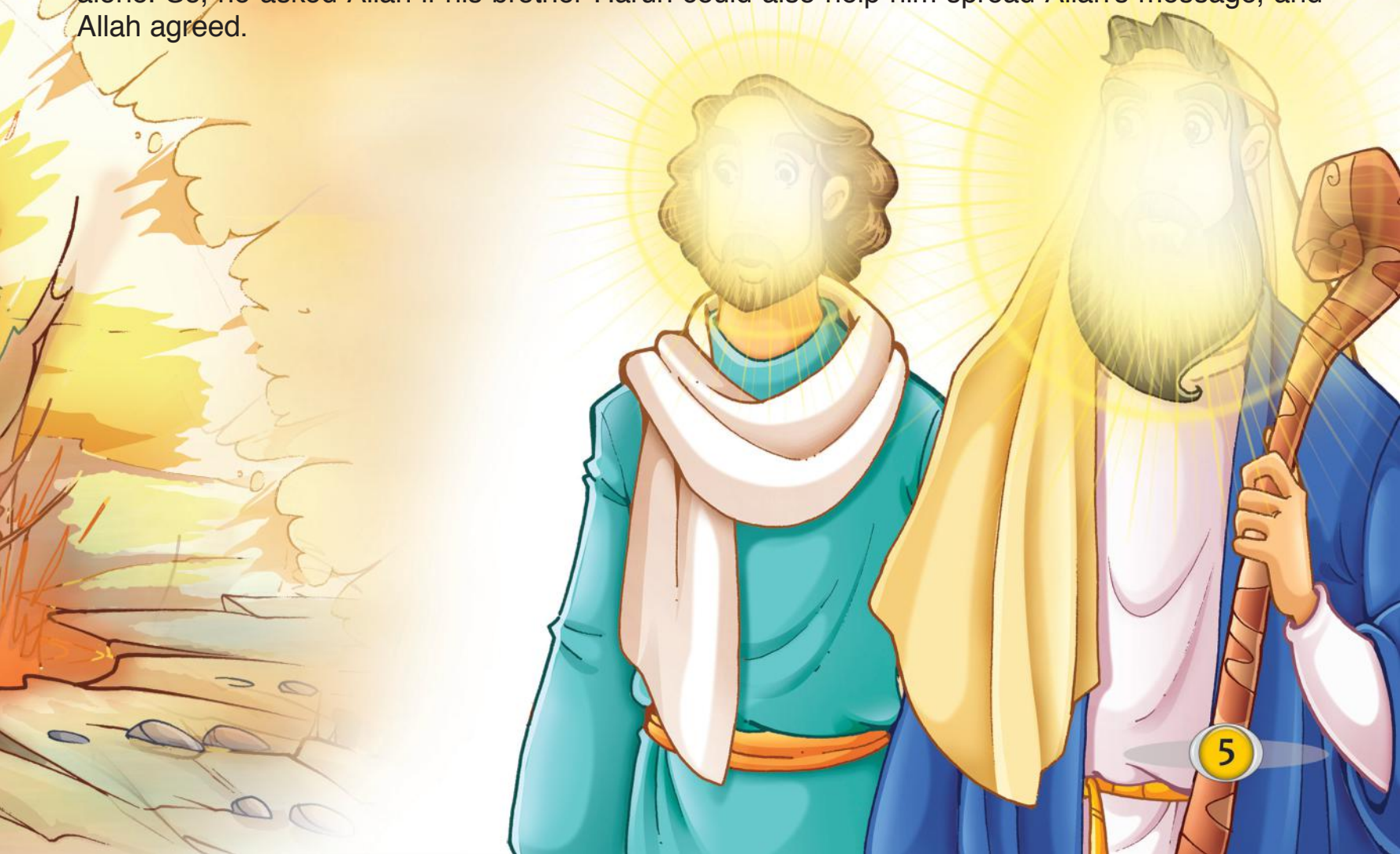
One night during their journey, he saw a bright fire burning in the distance! Prophet Mūsā (ʿa) quickly went to find out what was going on. When he got closer to the fire, he noticed something strange. The fire was coming from a tree, but the tree was not burning!

As Prophet Mūsā (ʿa) looked at the tree in amazement, he suddenly heard a booming voice call out, “O Mūsā! Throw your staff onto the ground!”

Without hesitating, he threw down his staff, and it immediately turned into an enormous serpent! Prophet Mūsā (ʿa) fearfully gasped and quickly stepped back.

Again, the booming voice commanded, “O Mūsā! Do not be afraid! I am Allah! When you pick up the serpent, it will become your staff again. Use this miracle and be My messenger to Pharaoh.”

Prophet Mūsā (ʿa) immediately felt different! It was almost like he was filled with light! He felt strong and ready to complete this mission. He thanked Allah for this miracle, but knew he couldn’t do it alone. So, he asked Allah if his brother Harūn could also help him spread Allah’s message, and Allah agreed.

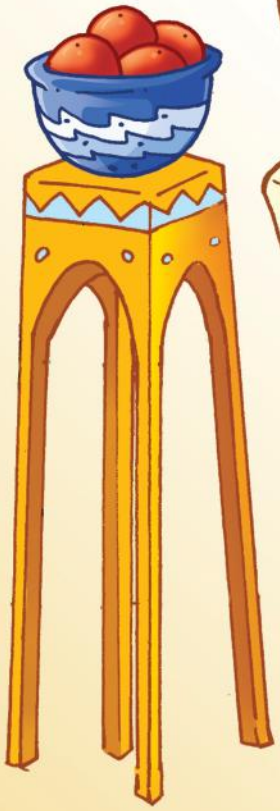


Finally, after a few days, the two brothers reached Egypt, ready to spread Allah's message! They went straight to the Pharaoh's palace. Their first job was to try and convince him. Prophet Mūsā (ʿa) announced, "We are the messengers of Allah, and I am His Prophet! Allah has ordered that you stop hurting the Banī Isrāʾīl immediately!"

Pharaoh laughed heartily and asked, "Why should I believe that *you* are the messengers of Allah?! What proof do you have?" Little did Pharaoh know that Allah had given Prophet Mūsā (ʿa) a miracle as proof! He watched in awe as Prophet Mūsā (ʿa) threw his staff on the ground and it turned into an enormous serpent!

"Ahhhhhh!" Everyone in the Pharaoh's court shrieked in fear! Pharaoh became very nervous. He thought to himself, *Is he really a messenger of Allah? If the people see this, they will stop following me!*

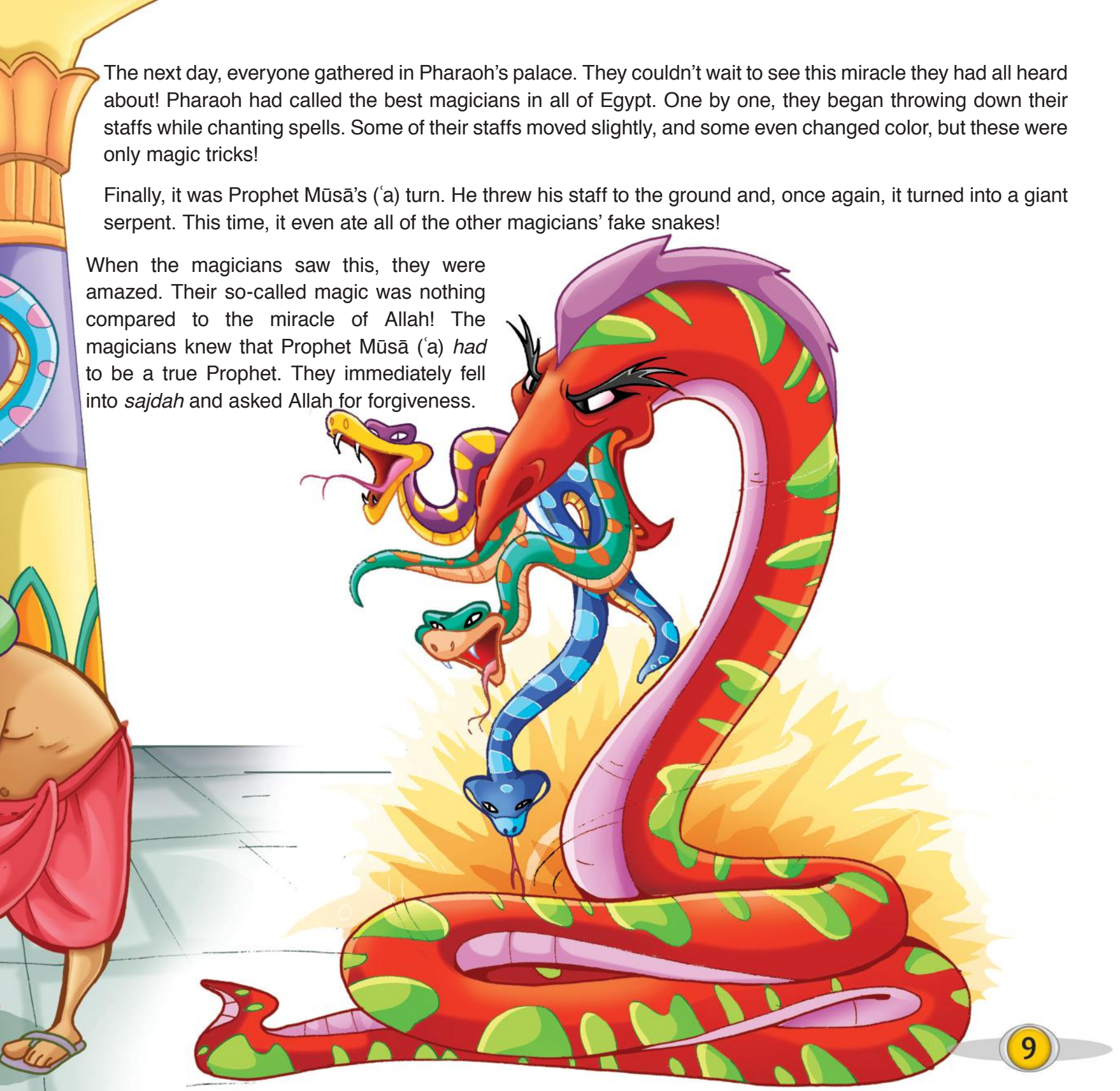
So, he quickly shouted, "This is magic! I bet my magicians can do the same trick! If you really are a Prophet, then let's have a competition!" Prophet Mūsā (ʿa) agreed.

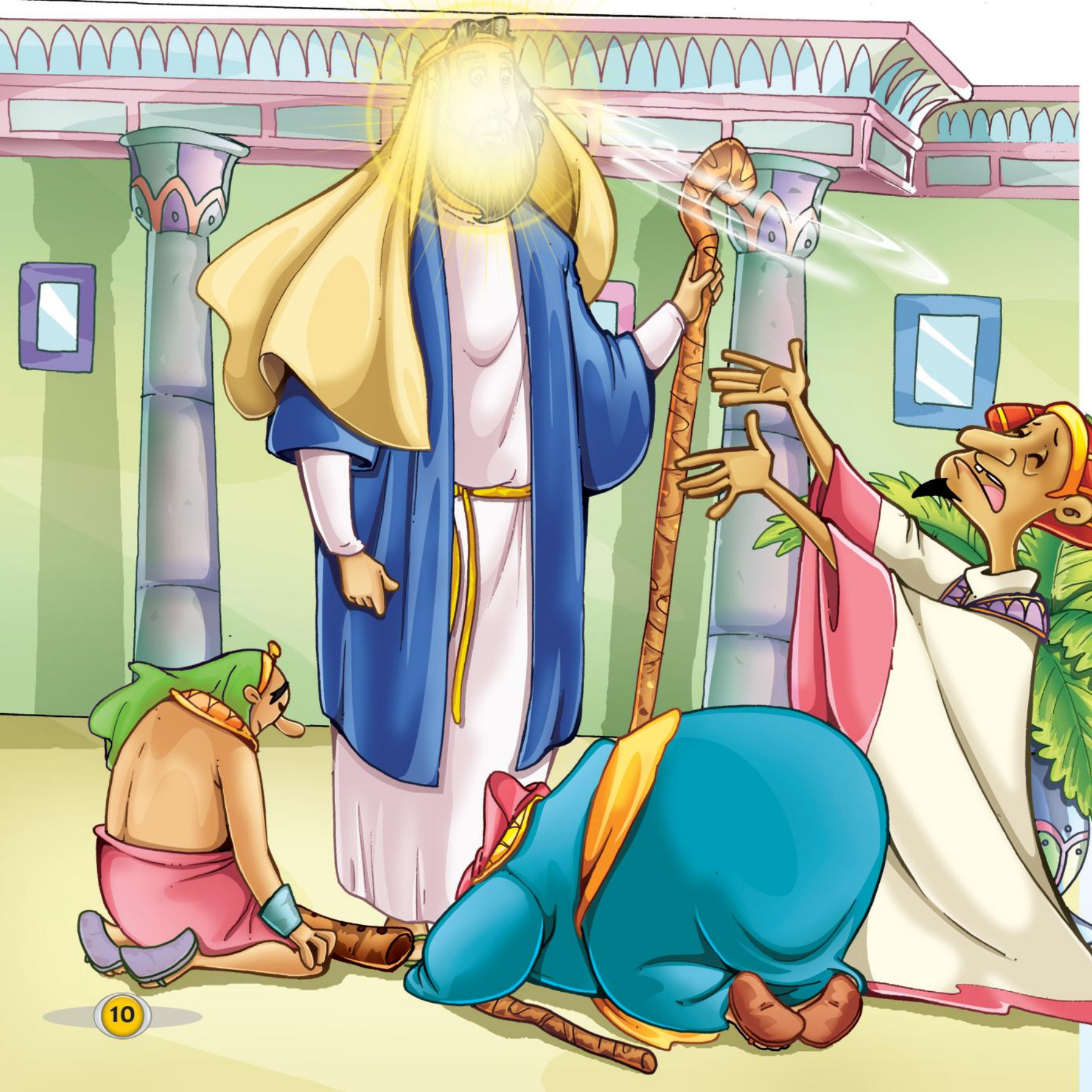


The next day, everyone gathered in Pharaoh's palace. They couldn't wait to see this miracle they had all heard about! Pharaoh had called the best magicians in all of Egypt. One by one, they began throwing down their staffs while chanting spells. Some of their staffs moved slightly, and some even changed color, but these were only magic tricks!

Finally, it was Prophet Mūsā's (ʿa) turn. He threw his staff to the ground and, once again, it turned into a giant serpent. This time, it even ate all of the other magicians' fake snakes!

When the magicians saw this, they were amazed. Their so-called magic was nothing compared to the miracle of Allah! The magicians knew that Prophet Mūsā (ʿa) *had* to be a true Prophet. They immediately fell into *sajdah* and asked Allah for forgiveness.

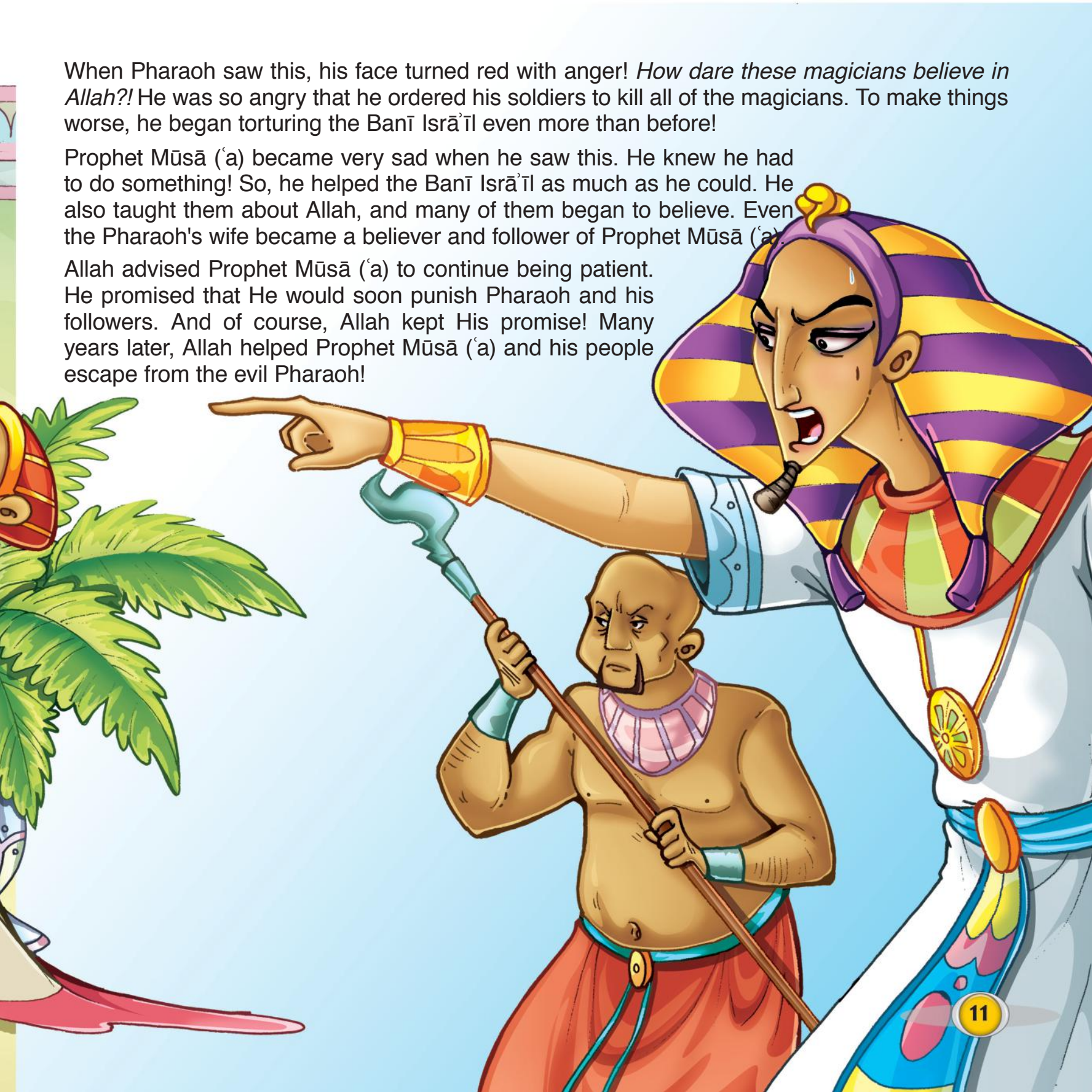




When Pharaoh saw this, his face turned red with anger! *How dare these magicians believe in Allah?!* He was so angry that he ordered his soldiers to kill all of the magicians. To make things worse, he began torturing the Banī Isrāʾīl even more than before!

Prophet Mūsā (ʿa) became very sad when he saw this. He knew he had to do something! So, he helped the Banī Isrāʾīl as much as he could. He also taught them about Allah, and many of them began to believe. Even the Pharaoh's wife became a believer and follower of Prophet Mūsā (ʿa).

Allah advised Prophet Mūsā (ʿa) to continue being patient. He promised that He would soon punish Pharaoh and his followers. And of course, Allah kept His promise! Many years later, Allah helped Prophet Mūsā (ʿa) and his people escape from the evil Pharaoh!



From this story of Prophet Mūsā (ʿa), we learn how important it is to trust Allah and be patient. If we believe and remain patient, Allah will help us when things are tough and keep us on the right path, *inshāʾAllāh.*

Family Time

فَأَلْقَىٰ عَصَاهُ فَإِذَا هِيَ ثُعْبَانٌ مُبِينٌ

So, [Mūsā] threw down his staff, and it turned into a clear snake. (26:32)

Dear Parents/Guardians,

When reading and learning about stories from the Qurʾān, it is important for us to reflect upon the lessons they teach us. In order to help your children internalize the lessons from this story, discuss the following questions:

1. What strange thing did Prophet Mūsā (ʿa) notice about the fire?
2. Who did Prophet Mūsā (ʿa) ask for as a helper?
3. What happened when Prophet Mūsā (ʿa) threw down his staff in front of other magicians? Did Pharaoh react the same way? Why or why not?
4. What lesson can we learn from this story?

Glossary

(ṣ): Peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muḥammad and his family

(swt): All glory belongs to God, the Glorified and Exalted

(ʿa): Peace and blessings be upon him/her

(ʿaj): May God hasten his reappearance

Ahl al-Bayt: Divinely appointed family members of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ)

al-Fātiḥah: The first *sūrah* that is commonly recited and sent as a gift of prayer for the deceased

Alḥamdulillāh: All praise is for God

Allah: The Arabic term for God, a culmination of all His holy names and titles

Duʿā: Supplication; a deep connection and communication between an individual and God

Imām: A divinely appointed leader, sometimes refers to a spiritual leader

InshāʾAllāh: God-willing

Marḥūmīn: Someone who has passed away

Qurʾān: The holy book of Muslims

Sajdah: Prostration

Sūrah: A chapter of the Qurʾān

Tawakkul: Reliance and trust in God

Tawfīq: Divine blessings from God that give one the opportunity and ability to thrive towards success

ʿUlamāʾ: Scholars

Transliteration Chart

Arabic terms in this book have been transliterated according to the following guidelines*:

ء	a, i, or u (initial form)
ء	ʾ (medial or final form)
ا	a
ب	b
ت	t
ث	th
ج	j
ح	ḥ
خ	kh
د	d
ذ	dh
ر	r
ز	z
س	s
ش	sh
ص	ṣ
ض	ḍ
ط	ṭ
ظ	ẓ
ع	ʿ
غ	gh
ف	f
ق	q
ك	k
ل	l
م	m
ن	n
ه	h
و	w
ي	y

ـَ	a
ـِ	i
ـُ	u
ـّ	double letter
آ / ـَا / ىٰ	ā
ـِي	ī
ـُو	ū

*Please note that due to limitations, the transliteration is not 100% accurate in capturing tajwīd rules.

Prophet Musa (a) and his brother Prophet Harun (a) have been sent on a difficult mission. Allah has told them to go to the evil and arrogant Pharaoh and get him to believe in One God. How will they do this? Allah has given them a special miracle, but will this change the stubborn Pharaoh's mind? *Prophet Musa (a) and the Serpent* teaches us that if we have a strong belief and remain patient, we can defeat even the most powerful and evil kings!

AL-KISA FOUNDATION
UNDER THE CLOAK OF GUIDANCE AND MERCY

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